Transfer of discarded technology

2113. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developed nations are transferring their discarded technology to the developing nations including India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the fields in which such discarded technology was already sold to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reviewing Indo-Russian Scientific Cooperation

2114. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire range of Indo-Russian Scientific Cooperation is under overhaul;

(b) if so, whether several scientific projects are also likely to be dropped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A meeting of the Joint Council for the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation (ILTP) in Science and Technology between Russia and India was held in Moscow on April 17-18 1992. It was emphasised that the main thrust of our cooperation will continue to be the realisation of scientific ideas towards the development of new technologies, generation of new equipment and techniques as well as advanced materials required for the development of the economics of both the countries. In view of the financial constraints, the projects already identified jointly between India and Russia will be priorotised. The Indo-Russian cooperation will be made broad based with inter-institutional involvement. Joint cooperative research and projects will be organised between various scientific organisations and institutions of India and Russia, including educational, R&D and production centres. Alongside, the existing mechanism of cooperation between the Indian National Science Academy and the Russian Academy of Sciences will continue to be utilised for promotion of joint work in basic science areas.

Review of Vaccine Action Plan

2115. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to several disquieting news-reports linking polio vaccine with AIDS as reported in the Times of India dated the 8th April, 1992;

(b) whether Government will review its entire Biotechnology programme including Vaccine Action Plan and other similar projects in hand based on gene-recombination; and

(c) whether Government will appoint a high powered Task Force of non-official scientists to look into the matter independently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Government is aware of the reports linking Polio Vaccine with AIDS; and the assumptions appear to be hypothetical.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to review the Biotechnology programmes in the country which are formulated on the advice of Expert Advisory Committees and Task Forces. Involvement of the scientists from within the country and from outside is ensured. For specific programmes and activities, Expert